



Pat

Environmental
Improvement
Agency

Drawer 1300 - 105 North Second Street
Gallup, NM 87301

March 5, 1976

Mr. Joseph Pierce, Regional Manager
Environmental Improvement Agency
Regions I and II
4159 Montgomery, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Dear Joe:

On February 24, 1976 Pat Olachea and I inspected the Kerr McGee Corporation water supply. We talked to Bill Young, Al Phieger, and Larry Jim, employees of Kerr McGee.

This water system serves the mine employees only. The water is hauled from a windmill at an abandoned mine approximately two or three miles away. The water is stored in and served from ten gallon coolers. No treatment or disinfection is used. No bacteriological tests are made. Signs are posted warning that mine water used for showers, etc. are not to be consumed. By the first week of March, 1976 this water system is to be discontinued. Because of this no samples were taken.

The new system will consist of:

1. Mine water discharge - Source.
2. Flocculation ponds, filtration, chlorination, and softening (in that order) - Treatment.
3. Elevated storage tank - Storage.

The new system will also serve as a watering point for area residents.

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WATER QUALITY SECTION

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Recommendations:

1. Test kit for free chlorine residual.
2. Daily chlorine residual tests.
3. Daily records of water flow, chlorine residual, chlorine usage.
4. Monthly bacteriological sample submitted to the Environmental Improvement Agency Laboratory.
5. Test treated water (Complete chemical, arsenic, selenium, other heavy metals, and radiological).

Operator Certification:

The water system operators are in need of training concerning water quality, treatment, storage, distribution, safety, records, disinfection, operation, and the law. Recommendations were discussed with operators.

Sincerely,

Felix Schmidt

Felix Schmidt, Environmentalist

CC: Richard Mitzelfelt, Environmental Supervisor
Pat Olachea, Water Quality Division ✓
Bill Young, Kerr McGee Corporation
File